

College Student Relief Act promises reduced student interest rates

APRIL BURRESS
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed bill House Resolution 5, which promises to drastically cut interest rates on some student loans.

The bill, also known as the College Student Relief Act of 2007, proposes a reduction on student loan interest rates from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over five years. This is expected to cost taxpayers approximately \$6 billion if enacted into law.

The College Student Relief Act applies only to subsidized, or need based, student loans. Currently, 5.5 million students receive subsidized loans annually.

The College Student Relief Act will undoubtedly have an impact on UNO students taking out loans. In Nebraska, graduates of four-year colleges have an average of \$13,000 in student loans. The average college student beginning school in 2011 may save an average of \$4,420 over the life of their loans, according to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Those in favor of the bill stressed the importance of relieving the financial burden many college graduates face.

Representative Lee Terry of Nebraska's 2nd District was among those who supported the bill. Terry did not respond to requests for an interview, but a recent *Omaha World-Herald* article attributed his support for the act to his own college days when he held several jobs and struggled to

meet the financial burden.

Cody Farrens, president of UNO College Democrats and a senior political science major, shared Terry's approval of the College Relief Act, saying it makes education more accessible, particularly for students pursuing careers in fields that aren't traditionally highly paid.

"It makes education more accessible," Farrens said, "not having to worry about getting a six-figure salary to pay back loans."

While the majority of the House voted in favor of H.R. 5, many representatives still opposed it. Much of the opposition for the act came from banks and lenders who profit from fees and government subsidies. The act will reduce the government subsidies financial institutions and lenders currently receive to offset the \$6 billion debt imposed by the changes.

One such financial institution, ScholarPoint Financial Inc., stressed the costs that the College Student Relief Act will place on business such as theirs in a recent press release.

"This bill, if enacted into law, would make it more difficult for me to successfully offer low-cost consolidation loans to help student loan borrowers manage their debt," said ScholarPoint CEO Chris Studer in a statement.

ScholarPoint and other financial institutions say there are already ways

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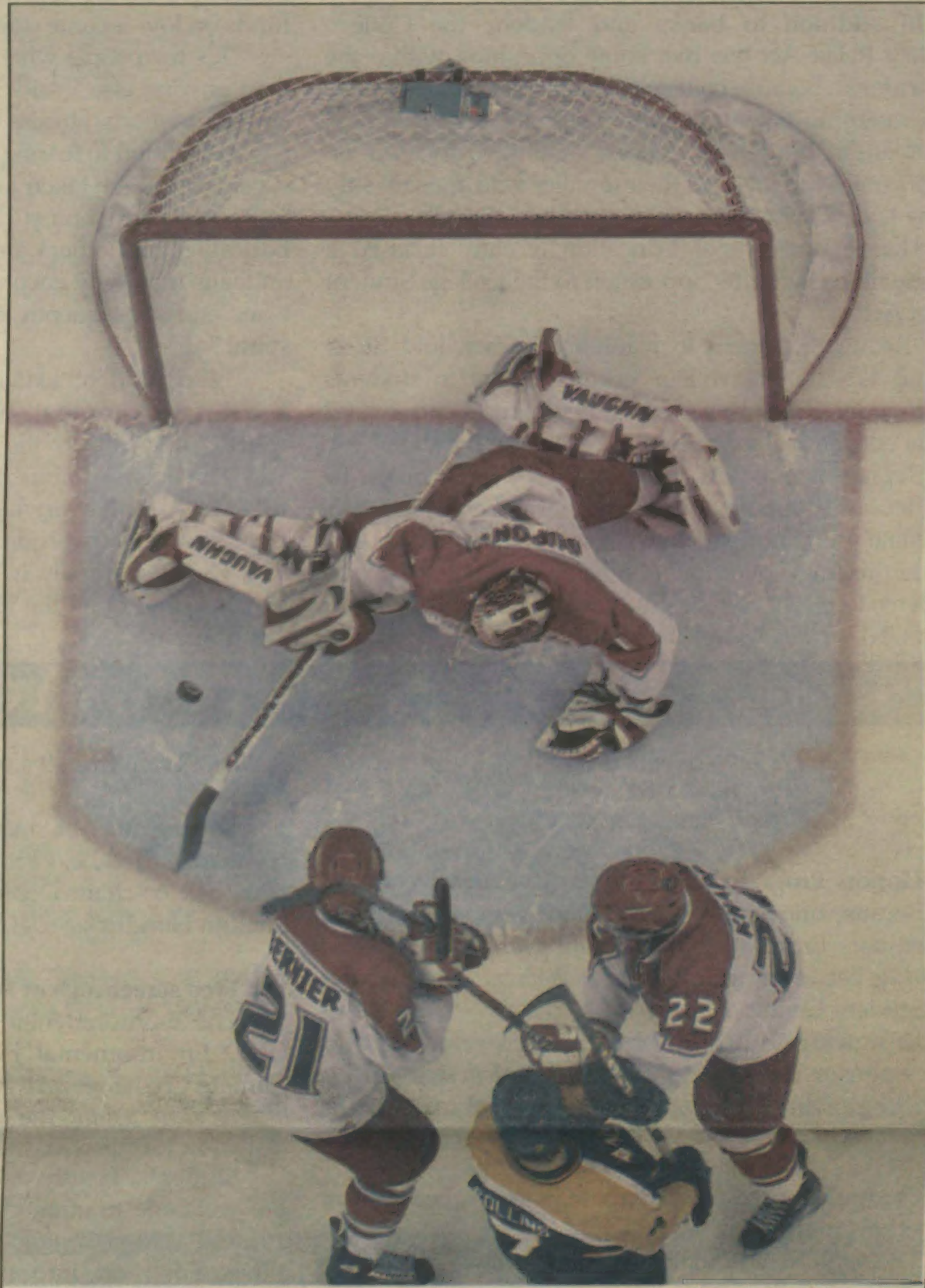


photo by Michelle Bishop

Dupont denies Wildcats

UNO goalie Jeremie Dupont makes a sprawling save during the second period of the Mavericks' 6-1 win Saturday night at the Qwest Center. Dupont recorded 36 saves over the weekend and has allowed only five goals in his last four starts. See full story on pg 4.

Students take different strategies as flu season approaches campus

EUGENE KIM
STAFF WRITER

In recent years, UNO students have experienced flu seasons that peak around January and February, which matches countrywide trends, said to Student Health Services Director Marcia Adler.

In the past few weeks, flu outbreaks have caused several western Nebraska towns to shut down for the better part of a week, due to the high rate of infection.

The flu, caused by the influenza virus, is spread from person to person through coughing or sneezing. Anyone can catch it, and immunizations only last for the current flu season.

Vaccination shortages often occur in late October and November.

UNO was unable to avoid these shortages and ran out of vaccinations near the end of November.

They have since received a new shipment of three vials of vaccine, translating to roughly 30 shots.

Student Health Services administers these vaccines for \$15 to students and \$20 to non-students.

So far, out of 458 shots administered this past flu season, only 169 of those were given to students.

Many students, like junior Brandy Stone, believe the flu vaccination is just not for them.

See **FLU SEASON:** Page 2

Engineering Building renovation clears way for CPACS fall move

TAYLOR MULLER
ASST. SECTION EDITOR

A renovated Engineering Building will be the new home for the College of Public Affairs and Community Service when it reopens in fall 2008.

Ten departments previously scattered across campus will be consolidated under one roof, with two additions being done to the

existing building as well, said George Killian, director of Planning and Architectural Services. A basement will also be added in the renovation.

"There will be an addition of 5,000 square feet to the front side and 15,000 feet to the backside on the Killian.

This will be the first



courtesy illustration

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News

Scott Stewart | News Editor

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news@gateway.unomaha.edu | January 30, 2007

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for recent college graduates to deal with debt, such as consolidation.

"Consolidation is one of many means today's college grads have to manage the financial impact that student loans can have on their lives," Studer said.

In addition to banks and lenders, the College Student Relief Act has met some opposition within the government. Because college graduates traditionally have higher earning potential, many believe efforts to lighten the financial burden of college should be focused on low-income students and their families who are currently trying to deal with the costs of attending college.

The Department of Education recently released a statement declaring its opposition to the College Student Relief Act.

"Reducing student loan interest rates would direct federal subsidies to college graduates, not to students and their families who are struggling to meet current and future educational expenses," according to the statement.

Representative Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska's 1st District also opposed the bill. Fortenberry was not available for comment, but stressed the importance of not redirecting government subsidies from low-income students to recent college graduates in a recent interview with UNL's *Daily Nebraskan*.

"My policy's emphasis is on the front-end - helping people get to college and go to college," Fortenberry said.

Other UNO students agreed with the Department of Education, saying federal aid should continue to focus funds on low-income students currently in college.

"It's for people who need it, and they need it more than anyone else," said Tom Hannam, a senior history and international studies major.

In addition to fearing that much-needed government subsidies will be taken away from low-income students to finance legislation such as H.R. 5, the Department of Education and others are afraid lowering interest rates on loans may only encourage students to take out more loans and subsequently encourage the "upward tuition spiral."

"Student debt loads have soared in recent years, and it is not clear that encouraging more loans is a wise course," according to the department's statement.

The Bush Administration has also voiced opposition to H.R. 5, but overwhelming support for the bill in Congress may override a potential presidential veto. The act passed easily in the House, with a vote of 356-71 consisting of all the House Democrats as well as 124 Republicans.

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"I haven't [received the vaccination] in recent years, mainly because the shots didn't do much for me," she said. "I only got a bit of a sniffle cold for a couple of days this season."

Junior Meghan Schembri takes a different approach to the flu season. Schembri combats the flu season by eating and drinking healthy foods, including yogurt and fruit smoothies.

"I've never had a flu vaccination and only had the flu twice," she said.

For most people, the flu lasts only a few days and can often be mistaken for other illnesses. Its symptoms may include fever, sore throat, chills, fatigue, cough, headache and muscle aches.

Some people experience worse conditions, which can lead to pneumonia and possible death. Influenza kills about 36,000 people nationwide every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Fortunately, the flu is a preventable illness, and smart choices can help most students stay healthy.

"The reason the flu is such a pain is due to bad hygiene," said Adler. "Get immunized and wash your hands."

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY
SCOTT STEWART
News Editor

Honors Program hosts blood drive next week

Because one person needs blood every two seconds, the Honors Program will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center.

To sign up to donate blood, visit givelife.org and enter sponsor code 0091871. You can also sign up by contacting Erin Burke at 554-2696 or eburke@mail.unomaha.edu.

Campus invited to participate in general education objectives review

The UNO General Education Review Task Force will host more than 20 facilitated conversations among faculty, staff and students throughout the month of February in a campus-wide effort to review the goals and objectives of the university's general education program.

Participants attending these brainstorming sessions will be asked to use software from the UNO Institute of Collaboration Science to anonymously submit opinions about the knowledge and skills UNO graduates should possess.

The task force was created last fall to determine the overall educational objectives and create assessment tools to improve student learning in the general education program. The results from these sessions will become the basis for the next steps in the review process.

The first two facilitated conversations will take place on Friday, Feb. 2, in the Milo Bail Student Center

Gallery Room from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

To register or more information, including a complete schedule, visit gened.unomaha.edu or contact task force co-chairs Debroah Smith-Howell, 554-4849, or Shelton Hendricks, 554-2338.

Free screenings of *An Inconvenient Truth*

The Environmental Club at UNO along with the UNO Environmental Film Cooperative and Campus Climate Challenge will be hosting free screenings of *An Inconvenient Truth*, the global warming documentary featuring former Vice President Al Gore.

Students, faculty and staff of all four NU campus are welcome to attend the screens held in the Eppley Administration Building Auditorium at the following times. For more information, visit the Environmental Club's Web site, unomaha.edu/ecuno.

Thursday, Feb. 1
4 p.m., EAB 102

Friday, Feb. 2
6 p.m., EAB 102

Omaha Symphony offers student discounts

The Omaha Symphony is offering UNO students the opportunity to purchase rush tickets for the Masterworks or Chamber concert series this season.

Rush tickets are \$10 cash only and must be purchased with a MavID one hour prior to the event at either the Holland Performing Arts Center for the Masterworks concerts or the Strauss Performing Arts Box Office for Chamber concerts.

The next concert is Gustav Holst's "The Planets Beyond Our Universe" and will take place Feb. 9 and 10 at 8 p.m. at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

The symphony is also offering a 20 percent discount for UNO students, faculty and staff interested in attending the Pops series concert featuring UNO alumna and jazz musician Karrin Allyson.

The discount is available through 5 p.m. on Feb. 14 and is valid for performances on Feb. 16 through 18 at the Holland Performing Arts Center. To order tickets, visit secure.omahasymphony.org/password/index.asp and enter the code "enote."

For more information on Allyson, visit karrin.com. For more information about the discounts, call 342-3560 or visit the symphony online at omahasymphony.org.

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The Gateway is published by the University of Nebraska at Omaha Student Publications Committee on Tuesdays and Fridays during the fall and spring semesters and on Tuesdays during the summer sessions.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the Advertising Manager. Other inquiries and complaints should be directed to the Editor-In-Chief. Copies of the Student Publications Committee inquiry/complaint policy are available at The Gateway's office, Milo Bail Student Center Room 115.

The Gateway is funded as follows: 70 percent advertising revenue, 30 percent student fees allocated by Student Government.

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Balancing act: grad school, parenthood, teaching

From **CPACS**: Page 1



Jennifer Mullins

STEPHENIE CONLEY
STAFF WRITER

With President Bush's pledge to send more troops into Iraq, America's military is preparing to spend more time away from home and family. The increase in troop numbers and combat tour extensions are not only stressful on military members, but their

families as well.

Longer deployments mean longer separations from loved ones. No one understands these separations better than Jennifer Mullins, a graduate teaching assistant in the School of Communication. Married to Air Force Technical Sergeant Steve Mullins, she has firsthand experience.

As an air/ground equipment maintenance supervisor for the 55th Maintenance Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Steve was gone about 220 days during 2006. Add a 10-year-old daughter and a 6-year-old son to a husband that is gone the majority of the year, and life for Mullins sometimes resembled single parenthood.

When her husband is gone, family life often becomes "organized chaos," Mullins said. "Sometimes it's really stressful."

In her toughest moments she has said, "I'm tired of doing this by myself."

Yet somehow, Mullins manages to balance being a student with the responsibilities of her home life.

After graduating from UNO with a Bachelor of Science in public relations in 2004, Mullins considered pursuing graduate work. But it wasn't until her husband became part of the rotating team that supports Air Force 2, called the National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC), that she got her chance.

Working for NAOC, Steve's tour was controlled, meaning that the family would stay in place at Offutt

for at least the next two years, even if he deployed. This controlled tour allowed Mullins to enter graduate studies without fear of moving.

She received her graduate teaching assistantship in fall 2005, and has taught two sections of the publication design and graphics laboratory.

"Teaching has been an amazing experience. I have learned so much about myself," Mullins said. "The greatest thing I will take away from this experience, though, is a better appreciation for the person standing in front of the classroom. I never stopped to think about how nervous they get before they walk into the room that first day."

In addition to teaching at UNO, Mullins has taught 20 eighth-grade students from Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School how to build a professional Web site. With Mullins guiding them through the process, the students built a Web site for The Preston Loves Jazz and Art Center located in downtown Omaha.

Being a graduate student and teaching assistant keeps Mullins busy. Balancing her home life with school responsibilities is a task she must deal with every day.

When asked how she does it, Mullins laughed and responded, "Carefully. I've been asked this so many times, and each time the only answer I can give is by God's dear grace. I never tell myself there is any other choice. If the option to be weak doesn't exist, then I can't take that road."

Despite the long separations from her husband, Mullins' marriage has been strong for 13 years. She attributes the secret of her marriage longevity to good communication.

Following graduate school, Mullins has not set specific goals. Instead, she chooses to leave her options open.

"I've learned through experience that life will lead you where you need to go," she said. "I have perfect faith that the job I am supposed to fill will be there when I need it."

permanent home for CPACS. Killian estimated the total project cost at more than \$18 million.

The front side of the building, facing the pedestrian walkway, will also be redone, but the additions won't stand out from the original building much since the same style is being used in the design process.

"I didn't want something that would make it look like an addition," said Killian. "It's a timeless look, with new windows that compliment and update the building."

Killian described the style as "very collegiate, with lots of brick and limestone."

Deborah Smith-Howell, who is on the CPACS Building Committee, said until the building opens, many of the departments will remain in their temporary locations.

"People have been remarkable with locating places for these departments," said Smith-Howell.

But, despite the sweeping renovations on the outside, it's what will go inside that CPACS Dean B.J. Reed is most looking forward to.

"It's going to be a flexible space that will allow for collaborative learning and for the community, faculty and students to get together to facilitate projects, programs and learning activities," said Reed. "There is only one facility in the metro area like this."

The new home is overdue, said Reed, because the college has never had a permanent building since its foundation in 1974, making it the only college in the NU system without one.

The building will host a teleconferencing center, a wireless work area and a laptop computer lab. Reed also described moving walls and furniture that can be rearranged, depending on the need.

Progress on the building's outside will be visible in March, when work on the building's foundation starts.

Attention UNO Students

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First amount due:	One-half of tuition and fees balance
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2nd amount due:	Remaining balance of tuition and fees

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Qwest Center booms as hockey team brooms Northern Michigan

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

The Road to the Joe has many potential pitfalls, but it can also present a host of opportunities.

The UNO hockey team capitalized on two such opportunities this weekend, sweeping the Northern Michigan Wildcats to pick up four points in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association standings and move one step closer to the NCAA tournament.

In both games the Mavs trailed 1-0 early only to explode for three second-period goals, swipe the momentum from their conference foes and run away with the win.

Coach Mike Kemp said the best part of the weekend was how his team adhered to the process they've been emphasizing in recent practices.

"We played physical, we played aggressively, we really didn't sit back at all," he said.

"It's not just the fact that you win the game, it's also the way you do it. We battled through a lot of adversity, falling behind after the first period, and I thought our guys responded."

In Friday night's 5-2 victory, sophomore Dan

Charleston had two goals and senior Scott Parse had three assists to lead the Mavericks.

Parse lit it up again Saturday night with two goals, including one after a pair of second-period UNO penalty kills that sent the Qwest Center crowd into a frenzy.

Anchoring the Maverick defense was the stellar net play of freshman goalie Jeremie Dupont. Dupont had 36 saves in the two games to record his eighth and ninth wins of the year.

The Mavs are home again this weekend for a critical series against Michigan State, who leads UNO by three points in the CCHA standings. Another pair of wins would vault the Mavericks into fourth place with just six games remaining.



photo by Michelle Bishop

UNO's Nick Fanto (left) squares off with Northern Michigan's Blake Cosgrove while Brent Kisio tangles with Matt Siddall.



photo by Patrick Doty

Carlye Jones (left), Ashley Freerksen, Ashley Nelson and Lacey Geitzenauer celebrate the Mavs' 79-71 upset of Augustana Thursday night.

Women's basketball team picks up first two conference wins

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

It may still be winter in Omaha, but for the UNO women's basketball team the cold spell is over.

After a rough 0-4 start in North Central Conference play, the Mavericks finally got a taste of victory with a pair of dramatic wins over Augustana College and St. Cloud State University.

"For us to make that kind of leap and

go do that is huge," said Coach Patty Patton Shearer. "For us to respond to that level of play and competition, and to compete and battle just speaks to the resiliency and courage, character ... that they had."

The Mavs first win came Thursday night when they toppled NCC-leading Augustana 79-71 at Sapp Fieldhouse to halt the No. 8 Vikings 20-game win streak.

See **WOMEN'S B-BALL**: Page 8

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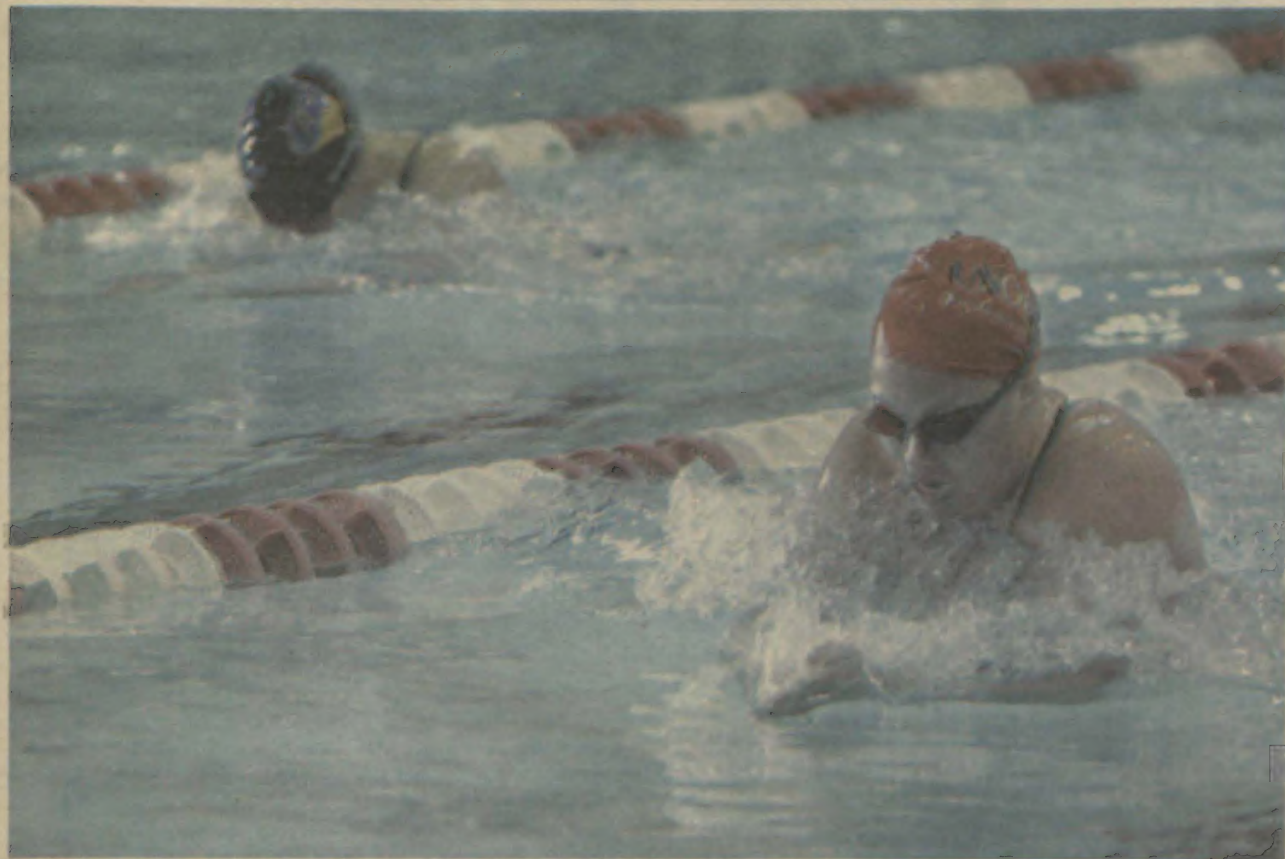
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Senior Beth Hempleman holds the lead in the 200-yard butterfly event against Northern Iowa. Hempleman went on to win the event and the Mavs cruised to a 183-163 victory.

photo by Patrick Doty

Maverick Swimmers part waters with Nebraska, University of Northern Iowa

ASHLEE SCHUETTE
STAFF WRITER

Mavericks swimming went up against the Huskers Friday night but couldn't stop the UNL wave from crashing ashore with a 159-83 non-conference dual win at the HPER pool.

"We didn't expect to win against the Huskers but we did expect to be challenged and to do well," swimming head coach Todd Samland said. "I think we did that. We had some great swims and we competed well."

Jessica Hessel, a junior from Wichita, Kan., captured the 50-yard freestyle event with a time of 24.44.9 and also won the 100-yard freestyle

with a time of 57.79.9.

Fellow teammates Adrienne Losee and Theresa Scheuber also earned themselves titles on Friday. Losee, a junior from Omaha, won the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:08.45 just ahead of teammate Carrie Murphy, a sophomore from Omaha.

Scheuber, a freshman from Papillion, won the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:06.02.

"I think we did alright against the Huskers--especially for being as tired as we are," said senior Bridgette Schram. "It's getting to that point in the season where we are starting to rest for our championship."

See **SWIMMING**: Page 8

Big stage doesn't faze track team

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

Don't think that some powerhouse Division I names are going to intimidate the UNO track team.

These women came to play.

The Mavs traveled to Lincoln Saturday for the Adidas Classic and brought back the respect of some of the nation's elite track programs.

As well as a little hardware.

Sophomore Pinar Saka led the Maverick effort with a win in the 400-meter dash. Running against athletes from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Oklahoma University and Oral Roberts University, Saka blew away the field in 54.95, the second-fastest indoor time in UNO history.

Despite the level of competition, the confident Saka didn't even think it was her best showing.

"I was feeling ready; I think I could do maybe better but I wasn't in the fastest heat," she said. "It's important for me to beat them, I don't care if they're Division I."

The Mavericks also notched big performances from sophomore Molly Belling and the 4x400-meter relay team.

Belling, who was the NCC outdoor athlete of the year last spring, also laid down a second-fastest UNO time ever, hitting 24.59 in the 200 meters to come in third.



photo by Jason Glenn

Molly Belling tears down the home stretch in her 200-meter finals heat. Belling finished third in 24.59 seconds.

Men's basketball splits North Central Conference weekend

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO men's basketball team, struggling with a 1-3 start in conference play that included some crushing late-game losses, got a measure of redemption with a close win over Augustana at Sapp Fieldhouse.

Unfortunately, the Mavericks couldn't make a streak out of it.

After avenging an early-season loss against the Vikings 64-62 Thursday night, the Mavs went on the road and fell to St. Cloud State 76-67 Saturday afternoon.

Senior Zac Robinson got UNO out to a

quick start against Augie with three three-pointers in the first four minutes of play.

"To get a couple to fall early and get some momentum going is key," said Robinson. "So when I came out early and I was able to get some wide-open ones and knock them down, that kind of made the basket look bigger."

A thunderous dunk from junior Jerry Bennett just a few minutes later helped the Mavs open a 26-17 lead.

Augustana got a few points back and UNO took a 35-30 advantage into the half.

See **MEN'S B-BALL**: Page 8

the morning...

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Pick up applications at the Gateway office, MBSC 115.

Call Carol at 554-2471 if you have any questions.

Application deadline is Friday, Feb. 2 at 5 p.m.



Arts & Leisure

January 30, 2007 | a&l@gateway.unomaha.edu

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Michael McManus | Arts & Leisure Editor

Banging the box with bhangra

On The Beat



Brent Crampton

This Friday, Feb. 2, Student Organizations and Leadership Programs is hosting Basement Bhangra with DJ Rekha of NYC on the second floor of the UNO

Student Center. Free for UNO students and \$5 for non-UNO students, the event is from 9 p.m. to midnight and is for ages 18 and over.

In the vein of a good party while still educating, Sharif Liwaru organized this event to expose Omaha to a new form of music: Bhangra.

Bhangra (pronounced, bong-row) is a word that has been slowly seeping its way into the rhetoric of underground counterculture for the past decade. Despite the allure that bhangra is a new form of music, its origins are further reaching.

Past the borders of the states, across the pond, over the U.K. and down into South Asia is where the music originates from. For hundreds of years bhangra was used to celebrate the harvest in Punjab, India, where the dhol drum was played alongside Punjab Boliyaan lyrics, the flute, dholak drum, iktar and tumbi among other things. As the second-generation, post-World War II diaspora of South Asians integrated into the U.K. during the

1970s, bhangra began to culturally fuse with its surroundings. Today you can find the dhol drum and South Asian melodies of bhangra fully fused with the beats of hip hop, house and reggae.

And while bhangra was enjoying success in the U.K. as much as 30 years ago, America was slow to pick up.

"When I started to venture out, I found that the club circuit did not have any Indian parties at all," Rekha said in an EGO Magazine article.

In 1994, she got her first residency at Demorara, an NYC club, and has since been nominated for best DJ by New York magazine and named as one of the most influential South Asians in the U.S. by Newsweek magazine. To say the least, she's considered a pioneer for South Asian music in North America.

Rekha also uses the nightlife culture for a positive change outside the dancefloor. Serving on the board of Breakthrough, a human rights organization, Rekha often donates proceeds of her events to various causes. And she'll travel the country to lecture at universities about DJing and her cultural roots.

As an event promoter with her production company, Sangament, her Basement Bhangra parties have been hugely successful and have been titled as New York's most popular South Asian party. And that's what she's bringing to UNO.

Apart from bhangra, musically she's well-versed in house, hip hop and reggae, and uses her eclectic selections to lure dancers while still educating people to underexposed music.

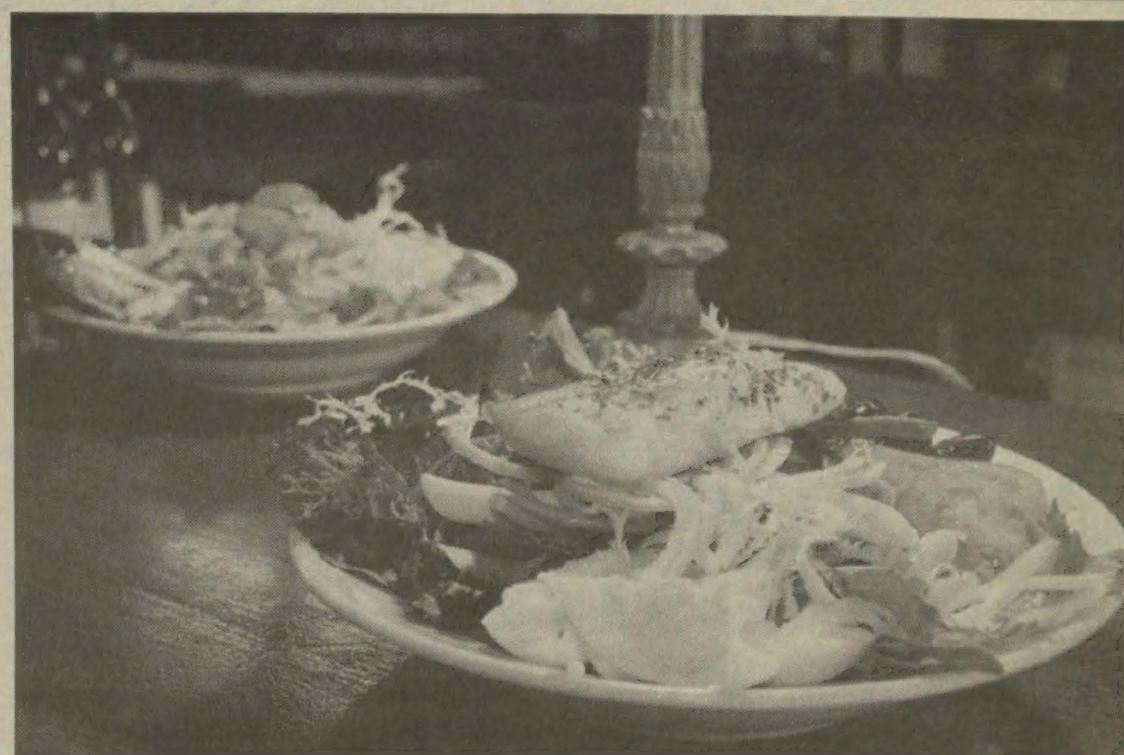


photo by Patrick Doty

Meals, like the one featured above, can be purchased at over 30 restaurants throughout Omaha for a discounted price when joining the Omaha Originals Dining Club.

Want to break out of the chains? Club offers new dining experiences

COMMENTARY BY
KATIE ZABROCKI
STAFF WRITER

It's a predictable problem. Picking a place to go out to eat can be a stressful affair, ending in an argument and a crowded dinner at Applebee's. But now there is a new option, and the price is right for college students.

Omaha Originals Dining Club is a group of 30 restaurants looking to offer a fresh and interesting dining experience. The club works by offering a card for \$30 to be purchased at its Web site, diningclubsite.com. Once the card is sent to you, you can begin using it at various local restaurants.

The card will generally allow members to receive a free entree or appetizer with the purchase of an appetizer or entree of equal or greater value.

These 30 restaurants vary greatly in style and taste, but one thing is constant: Commitment to bring a distinctive and creative dining experience to Omaha. Whatever you're in the mood for there is an Omaha Originals restaurant that will fit the bill. Interested in sushi? Check out Hiro. Maybe red meat is more up your alley. Austin's, Anthony's and Cascio's are all available steakhouse options.

See **LOCAL DINING**: Page 7

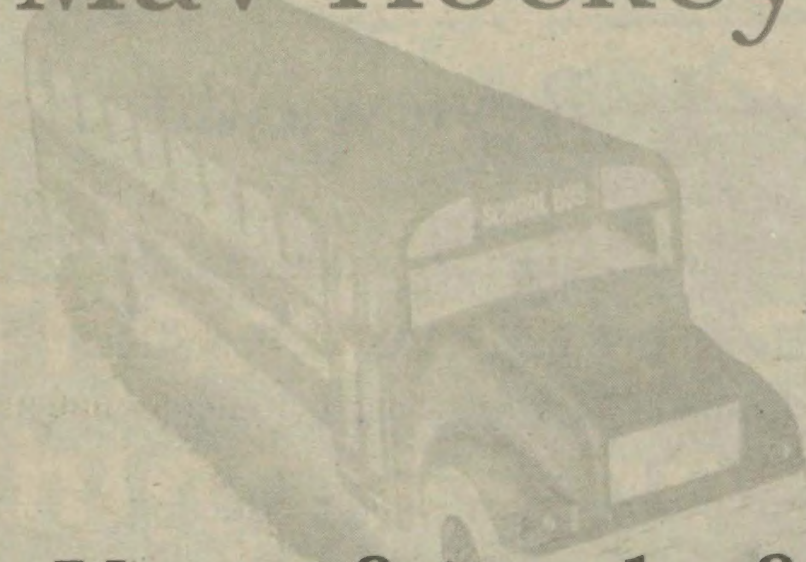
Ad must be presented to receive pair of passes.

One pair per person.

Passes and seating in the theater are first come, first serve.

The Gateway is open during regular business hours and is located in the Northeast corner of the Milo Bail Student Center.

Attention all Mav Hockey Fans!!



Your friends from Student Government

will be providing FREE bus rides to and from all remaining weekend home Mav hockey games.

Buses leave the North Campus Bell Tower promptly at 6:30.



Gateway

INVITE YOU AND GUEST TO A
SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING



Stop by THE GATEWAY on campus and pick up a complimentary pass to attend a screening of

music and lyrics

on Thursday, February 8th,
AMC Oakview, 7:00PM!

One admit-two pass per person. While supplies last. Passes available on a first-come, first-served basis. No purchase necessary. Employees of all promotional partners and their agencies are not eligible. This film has been rated PG-13 by the MPAA for some sexual content.

IN THEATRES VALENTINES DAY!

Medicated and in deep thought Fortenberry's ties to Nelnet calls nay vote's motive into question

How Typical



Michael McManus

I've been sick for over a week now. My doctor says it's a sinus infection, though I think the illness is beginning to affect my brain. I've become

really emotional lately. I feel as if I'm going through menopause, puberty and postpartum depression all at the same time. Perhaps that's not physically possible. But that is, in fact, how I physically feel.

I spent all day Saturday lying on the couch. Literally all day. My phone rang. I didn't answer it. My roommate's cat wanted food. I didn't feed it. I was a sick, sick man.

Between the intervals of napping and blowing my nose, I began to cruise through the cornucopia of options that HBO on demand offered individuals like myself. I browsed through some documentaries and came upon one called "All Aboard: Rosie's Family Cruise." I know the whole Rosie and Donald mess has placed a negative spotlight on Rosie O'Donnell lately, but I am still a huge fan and supporter. I decided to give the documentary a try. Side note: This is approximately when my phantom menopausal postpartum depression kicked in.

The documentary followed the first departure of Rosie and wife Kelly's cruise for gay families. I heard about the cruise a few years ago, but still figured it would be a week including shirtless men and alcohol. Thankfully, it wasn't.

As soon as the passengers started boarding the cruise ship, I admit I became a little choked up. Two normal men holding hands with their three children. Two beautiful women racing to the door with their four children. It was kind of surreal.

The documentary featured comments from the passengers, both adults and children. The one comment that seemed to come up the most was how they all felt

so comfortable and free of prejudice on the ship. The comment was heartwarming, but left me feeling a little concerned. The concept is great. Hundreds of gay families going on vacation, but the thing that upsets me is that for these families to go on vacation, they have to board a ship and set sail away from our country.

This really hit me hard. These kids were five and six years old talking about how people laugh at them because their parents are different. This is happening in our country, the melting pot. This is where diversity is supposed to be embraced.

I still can't comprehend why people look down upon gay and lesbian couples and families. What is so wrong and different about them? If a gay couple wants to adopt a child, why must you hold that picket sign outside their door? What do you know about that couple? I hardly understand how you can judge their parenting skills based solely on their sexuality.

I suppose I do partly blame this rant on the Benadryl I've just taken and the Vicks VapoRub that is slathered on my chest, but to me, I think it's common sense. You see someone who's different, you become educated in their differences and then the aspects of their lives that are different, are no longer different. They are accepted.

It's not going to be an easy path to full acceptance. How do you unteach hundreds and thousands of men and women who were raised to think that homosexuals are immoral to embrace them?

Well, let's look at it this way. Sixty years ago, how did our country teach hundreds of thousands of citizens to accept African American people as equals? It was our government. The U.S. government took a stand against unjust treatment and prejudice of African Americans. With our current administration coming to a quick and embarrassing end, maybe that realization may be closer than we once thought.

Maybe in five years my family won't have to go on a cruise to escape laughter and wandering eyes. Maybe in 10 years I will be able to hold hands with my partner in western Nebraska.

Maybe in 20 years, the word "gay" won't be used at all.

Maybe "people" will be enough. Maybe.

and combined with their atmosphere; it's just a great place."

A great advantage of the card for college students is it can make places that might be a little pricey more accessible. Cutting the price of dinner nearly in half at some restaurants can result in a substantial savings. Also, for many people it can be a great dining out resource. Local restaurants are great alternatives to always going to Panera or Chipotle.

The diningclubsite.com Web site instructs that when using the card, it should be presented before ordering, not when the bill comes. There are a few restrictions that are detailed on the site for each restaurant and the card is good for the rest of 2007.

Many of the Omaha Originals have been mainstays in the community for years, but there are some new faces on the list too. Keeping your taste buds on their toes can be as simple as making an investment in an Omaha Originals Dining Club card. Thirty dollars can go a long way in saving you money and providing an innovative and original dining experience.

Nebraska joined Utah as the only two state delegations with a majority opposition to the College Student Relief Act of 2007, also known as House Resolution 5, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives 356 to 71 with 8 abstentions, according to Congress.org.

H.R. 5 was part of Speaker Nancy Pelosi's agenda for the first 100 hours of the 110th Congress and promises to make "college more accessible and affordable by cutting the interest rates of subsidized student loans in half - from the current 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent," according to Pelosi's Web site, speaker.gov. The Web site goes on to claim that will impact about 5 million students nationwide.

Sounds pretty good so far, I think.

And, with the constant talk of "accessibility and affordability" at the University of Nebraska and with Gov. Dave Heineman's recent State of the State address challenge to raise college attendance rates by 5 percent statewide as well as provide financial relief to the middle class, it's easy to understand why a Nebraskan interested in higher education might support this act.

Yet, both Rep. Adrian Smith of Nebraska's third district and Rep. Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska's first district voted against the measure. Supporting the measure was Omaha's Rep. Lee Terry, a staunch Republican whose lifetime score matches Fortenberry's at whopping 9 percent on the American Civil Liberties Union's Congressional Scorecard, scorecard.aclu.org.

When the *Gateway* tried to contact Fortenberry early last week, his office told us that he had a very busy week and suggested that we use the quote he offered UNL's student newspaper, the *Daily Nebraskan*. As evident in our front-page story, we did just that.

Glancing at other articles in the *Daily Nebraskan*, however, made me think there might be more to tell of Fortenberry's position than his lack of concern for students once they get to college.

Prompted perhaps by a letter to the editor from Jan. 18, the *Daily Nebraskan* wrote an article on Jan. 26 that raised questions of propriety regarding Fortenberry's and Smith's acceptance

Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from Nelnet, a Lincoln-based company that describes itself as "one of the leading education and education finance companies in the United States," according to its Web site, nelnet.com.

For instance, according to Federal Election Commission records, Nelnet's

political action committee directly gave Fortenberry's campaign \$10,000. Individual Nelnet employees, such as Chairman Mike Dunlap and Chief Finance Officer Jeffrey Noordhoek, gave a combined total of \$9,800 to the campaign.

This doesn't take into consideration money channeled through other political action committees, their individual members or the families of employees. Opensecrets.org lists Nelnet as Fortenberry's No. 1 campaign contributor with \$26,000 in total contributions. Nelnet is listed among several other PACs as No. 20 in Smith's contributors.

Nelnet's Web site says it has "more than \$22.9 billion in net student loan assets" as of Sept. 30, 2006, and "its servicing software is used ... to service nearly \$65 billion in student loans." So the company has a lot to lose with any drastic changes to federal loan programs that favor the student.

Fortenberry says the College Student Relief Act doesn't get to the heart of the issue. But, how is lowering interest rates not going to enable more people to be successful, both during and after college? Why measure success only in terms of enrollment increases and graduate rates?

Unless, of course, the success of students isn't his true concern.

Perhaps Fortenberry and the other 71 Republicans who voted against the act are more concerned about getting more people into college, because doing so will mean more student loans. In other words, more money whether or not the students are successful after graduation.

I'm not sure how else to understand their position. After all, my biggest clue is what Fortenberry was quoted as saying: "My policy's emphasis is on the front-end."

What about the middle and the back-end?

WRITE TO US!

All readers are welcome to send their opinion or comments to the *Gateway*. Letters can be sent by mail, e-mail or fax. All letters should include the writer's name, address and phone number. Contact information will never be published. The *Gateway* reserves the right to reject letters or edit letters for clarity and space.

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See **WOMEN'S B-BALL:** Page 8

After Augie raced to an early lead, the Mavs clamped down on defense and used a crisp passing game to pull ahead by as many as 14 points, ultimately carrying a 44-34 advantage into the half.

UNO suffered a bit of a lapse in the second half, allowing Augustana to claw their way back to a one-point deficit of 52-51 at the 12:19 mark.

The Mavericks, who have seen a couple tight games slip away from them, didn't let up, though. They knuckled down and rebuilt a double-digit lead.

Still, the Vikings weren't sitting atop the NCC for nothing. They pulled out one last surge to cut the Mavs' lead to 73-71 with a minute to play.

But then sophomore Cayla Hargrove put the dagger in, crossing over on her defender and driving to the bucket to put the Mavs up by four with 28 seconds left.

"I just kept penetrating and got an open look," she said.

As the Vikings fouled in desperation, the

Mavericks buried four straight free throws to ice the game.

Senior Ashley Freerksen, who led UNO with a career-high 25 points, said the victory couldn't have come at a better time.

"It was good to win a game, we kind of forgot what it felt like," she said. "We can beat anybody if we play like we just played."

The Mavs hit the road for St. Cloud Saturday night and pulled out another nailbiter.

After claiming the lead 13 minutes into the first half, the Mavericks padded the cushion and stretched their advantage to 13 points early in the second.

But, again UNO saw an opponent go on a hot streak late in the game as the Huskies scratched their way back to a one-point game at 71-70 with just over three minutes to play.

Even though the Mavericks didn't make another basket, neither did St. Cloud and the score stood.

From **MEN'S B-BALL:** Page 5

photo by Patrick Doty

Jerry Bennett throws one down to give the Mavs a 26-17 first period lead. Bennett finished with eight points.

The Mavs came out of the break a bit flat and allowed the Vikings to squeak into a 46-45 lead at 13:14 of the second.

UNO retook the lead on a Justin Petersen layup, but couldn't quite pull

away from the tenacious Augustana squad. After the Vikings tied the score at 62-62 on a pair of free throws with 16 seconds to play, it looked like the Mavs might be in for another heartbreaker.

But, with just four ticks left on the clock, sophomore Michael Jenkins drew a foul on his way to the basket and drained two from the charity stripe to give the Mavs the win.

UNO's luck didn't hold up into the weekend, though.

The Mavericks again built an early lead only to see their opponent whittle away at it until it was a tight ballgame.

Despite poor shooting by both teams, St. Cloud turned a nine-point deficit into a 36-34 halftime lead.

After the break the score remained close as each team started to find the basket, but the Vikings surged ahead halfway through the period to claim a 67-56 advantage with 4:30 left.

From **SWIMMING:** Page 5

The Mavericks also competed against the University of Northern Iowa on Saturday. The team won 10 events to close out their home schedule with a 183-163 triumph over UNI.

The team also said goodbye to its three seniors, Beth Hempleman, Lisa Wemhoff and Bridgette Schram, who competed for the last time at home.

"It's really weird being a senior,"

Schram said. "I've been swimming competitively since I was nine. I'm going to miss it."

Both Hempleman and Wemhoff won events in the meet. Hempleman took first in the 200-yard butterfly while Wemhoff won the 100-yard event in the same stroke.

UNO finished its regular season at 4-4 before they compete in the North Central Conference meet Feb. 14-17.

Classified Ads

NOTICES

Advertising will be rejected that discriminates based on age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

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FOR ITEMS LOST AT UNO
Contact Campus Security, EAB 100, 554-2648.
Turned-in items can be claimed by a description and proper identification.

Advertising for items lost or found on the UNO campus will be published free in the Gateway for two weeks. Forms are available at the Office located in Milo Bail 1st Floor.

HELP WANTED

SWIMMING ANYONE?
Omaha's premiere Country Club is seeking: a Pool Manager, Asst. Pool Manager/Swim Team Coach, Dive Coach, and Life Guards, for this upcoming season. Please apply on-line at Omahacc.org or call 577-3005, or send resume to skramer@omahacc.org. Omaha Country Club, 6900 Country Club Rd. Omaha.

Athletic/Recreational Programs Assistant

Like working with youth in a recreational setting? Great part-time position! You will oversee athletic and recreational activities of youth residents at The Omaha Home for Boys. Excellent facilities. Requirements: Must be able to participate in physical activities and motivate youth, be a good swimmer, supervise the boys' locker room, and have a valid driver's license. Hours: 25 hours per week Sept through May - 3pm to 9pm weekdays and 1pm to 9pm weekends. During the summer months hours increase to about 40 hours per week. EOE. Omaha Home for Boys at 4343 No 52nd Street. Phone: 457-7092. Email: hr@omahahomeforboys.org

Part Time Help needed at Village Grinder Coffee Bar. 87th & Pacific. Flexible Schedule. Call Pat at 397-0918.

Looking for nanny in our home for one year old boy. Our home is located directly behind UNO in Elmwood Park. Hours are 8-5 Monday-Friday. Please email resume and references to sfey@uniohiovalleyathl.com or call 616-3801.

The Citrus Lounge is now hiring bartenders & waitstaff. Please apply in person, Mon-Sat after 3pm. 14616 West Center Rd.

Computer Lab Instructor
This is a part time position overseeing and instructing youth residents (ages 17-21) in the computer lab in our Independent Living Program. The position will assist residents with assignments required to advance through the program. Work hours are Monday through Fridays 6 pm to 10 pm. Qualifications: Must be proficient using Microsoft Office Word and Excel and the Internet to obtain information. Must be able to communicate with young adults. Some college preferred and/or experience in computer lab setting or media center. Omaha Home for Boys. 4343 No 52nd Street (68104). Phone: 457-7092. Email: hr@omahahomeforboys.org

Needed: Students to work in home ABA Program with 21 month old autistic boy. Experience not required. 9-12 hours per week. Flexible. Training provided. 964-2978 Steve or Sage.

Outstanding Leaders Needed

The Nebraska 4-H Camps at the Nebraska National Forest-Halsey, Schramm State Park-Gretna, and Harlan County Reservoir-Alma, are accepting applications for 2007 summer program staff. Lead outdoor programs - canoeing, tubing, rappelling/climbing, swimming, and many more.

Great Fun!
Great Experience!
Competitive Salary!
Summer positions for all majors!

Initial application deadline: February 15. Applications received after deadline may be accepted until all positions are filled. Applications are available on-line at 4h.unl.edu/camp/staff/. For information call: (402) 472-1710 or email: jvalahoski2@unl.edu

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HOUSING

APTS., HOUSES and sleeping rms. for rent, roommate lists - call UNO off-campus Housing Referral Service at 554-2383 or stop in the Admin. Office, Milo Bail Student Center.

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LARGE, cute 2 bedroom private apt. \$595/month + dep/ref. Incl: appliances, utilities/cable/internet, w/d/laundry, secure, lots of storage. In quiet home in nice Benson neighborhood, bus, non-smoker, short lease avail; possible discount in exchange for house/yardwork. Would suit student(s), professionals. Hannah 402-451-7564.

\$530 1 bedroom apartment at 69th & Dodge. Close to campus. Cats ok, water paid, off-street parking, on-site laundry. 617-0918 or atcouillard@gmail.com

ROOMMATE WANTED

Share large 4 bedroom home with 2 other females, 2 rooms available. Utilities/phone/cable paid. Near UNO, 57th between Leavenworth & Pacific. \$380. 250-2909.

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17" Viewsonic EA771B color monitor, one of the best! \$49. Gateway EV700 17" color monitor (made by Viewsonic), \$45. 15" color monitor \$15. HP Deskjet 500 heavy duty printer \$19. 2 VHS players both fully cleaned, inspected, and fully functional \$19 for both (cables included if needed). ALL fully functional, cleaned, and tested, with full 10 day GUARANTEE. Delivery and setup available. 453-0220 goodasgold@hushmail.com

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EVENTS

Citrus Lounge. 14616 West Center Rd. 934-4320. Every Wed. night is college night! \$2 cover, \$2 you call its all night.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you St. Jude for many special favors. KT.